



9110-04-P

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Coast Guard

33 CFR Part 100

[Docket Number USCG-2018-0577]

RIN 1625-AA08

Special Local Regulation; Choptank River, Talbot and Dorchester Counties, MD

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DHS.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking.

SUMMARY: The Coast Guard proposes to establish special local regulations for certain navigable waters of the Choptank River. This action is necessary to provide for the safety of life on these waters near Oxford, MD, from October 7, 2018, through October 15, 2018, during a sailboat regatta. This proposed rule would prohibit persons and vessels from being in the regulated area unless authorized by the Captain of the Port Maryland-National Capital Region or the Coast Guard Patrol Commander. We invite your comments on this proposed rulemaking.

DATES: Comments and related material must be received by the Coast Guard on or before [INSERT DATE 30 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER].

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments identified by docket number USCG-2018-0577 using the Federal eRulemaking Portal at <http://www.regulations.gov>. See the “Public Participation and Request for Comments” portion of the SUPPLEMENTARY

INFORMATION section for further instructions on submitting comments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: If you have questions about this proposed rulemaking, call or email Mr. Ronald Houck, U.S. Coast Guard Sector Maryland-National Capital Region; telephone 410-576-2674, e-mail Ronald.L.Houck@uscg.mil.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Table of Abbreviations

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|--------|---------------------------------|
| CFR | Code of Federal Regulations |
| COTP | Captain of the Port |
| DHS | Department of Homeland Security |
| FR | Federal Register |
| NPRM | Notice of proposed rulemaking |
| PATCOM | Patrol Commander |
| § | Section |
| U.S.C. | United States Code |

II. Background, Purpose, and Legal Basis

On February 13, 2018, the Tred Avon Yacht Club of Oxford, MD, notified the Coast Guard through submission of a marine event application that it is planning to conduct a sailboat regatta from October 5, 2018, through October 15, 2018, the 2018 Star World Championship. Race activities on navigable waters are planned each afternoon of the regatta beginning on October 7th. The regatta consists of approximately 100 2-person, 23-foot long International Star Class sailboats. These vessels will operate along a designated and marked 2.5 nautical mile long course. The course is located on the Choptank River, in Talbot and Dorchester Counties, near Oxford, MD. Hazards from the sailboat regatta include participants operating within and adjacent to a designated navigation channel and interfering with vessels intending to operate within that channel, as well as injury to persons and damage to property that involve vessel mishaps during

sailboat regattas conducted on navigable waters. The Captain of the Port Maryland-National Capital Region (COTP) has determined that potential hazards associated with the sailboat regatta would be a safety concern for anyone intending to operate in or near the race area.

The purpose of this rulemaking is to protect event participants, spectators, and transiting vessels on waters in and near the race area before, during, and after the scheduled event. The Coast Guard proposes this rulemaking under authority in 33 U.S.C. 1233, which authorizes the Coast Guard to establish special local regulations to promote the safety of life on navigable waters during regattas or marine parades.

III. Discussion of Proposed Rule

The COTP Maryland-National Capital Region is proposing to establish special local regulations that would be enforced from 11:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m., each day, from October 7, 2018, through October 15, 2018. The proposed regulated area is rectangular in shape, measuring approximately six nautical miles in length by four nautical miles in width. The area would cover all navigable waters of the Choptank River, within an area bounded by the following coordinates: commencing at latitude 38°41'39.02" N, longitude 076°11'19.18" W, thence south to latitude 38°37'28.68" N, longitude 076°11'19.18" W, thence west to latitude 38°37'28.68" N, longitude 076°18'18.35" W, thence north to latitude 38°41'39.02" N, longitude 076°18'18.35" W, thence east to point of origin, located near Oxford, MD.

This proposed rule provides additional information about an area within the regulated area, the "Race Area", and its definition.

The proposed duration of the special local regulations and size of the regulated area are intended to ensure the safety of life on these navigable waters before, during, and after races, scheduled from noon until 5 p.m. on October 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, and 15, 2018. The COTP and PATCOM would have authority to forbid and control the movement of vessels and persons, including event participants, in the regulated area. When hailed or signaled by an official patrol, a vessel or person in the regulated area would be required to immediately comply with directions given by the COTP or PATCOM. If a person or vessel fails to follow such directions, the Coast Guard may expel them from the area, issue them a citation for failure to comply, or both.

Except for 2018 Star World Championship participants, a vessel or person would be required to get permission from the COTP or PATCOM before entering the regulated area. Vessel operators can request permission to enter and transit through the regulated area by contacting the PATCOM on VHF-FM channel 16. Vessel traffic would be able to safely transit the regulated area once the PATCOM deems it safe to do so. A person or vessel not registered with the event sponsor as a participant or assigned as official patrols would be considered a spectator. Official Patrols are any vessel assigned or approved by the Commander, Coast Guard Sector Maryland-National Capital Region with a commissioned, warrant, or petty officer on board and displaying a Coast Guard ensign.

If permission is granted permission by the COTP or PATCOM, a person or vessel would be allowed to enter the regulated area or pass directly through the regulated area as instructed. Vessels would be required to operate at a safe speed that minimizes wake while within the regulated area. Official patrol vessels will direct spectator vessels while

within the regulated area. Vessels would be prohibited from loitering within the navigable channel.

The regulatory text we are proposing appears at the end of this document.

IV. Regulatory Analyses

We developed this proposed rule after considering numerous statutes and Executive orders related to rulemaking. Below we summarize our analyses based on a number of these statutes and Executive orders and we discuss First Amendment rights of protestors.

A. Regulatory Planning and Review

Executive Orders 12866 and 13563 direct agencies to assess the costs and benefits of available regulatory alternatives and, if regulation is necessary, to select regulatory approaches that maximize net benefits. Executive Order 13771 directs agencies to control regulatory costs through a budgeting process. This NPRM has not been designated a “significant regulatory action,” under Executive Order 12866. Accordingly, the NPRM has not been reviewed by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), and pursuant to OMB guidance it is exempt from the requirements of Executive Order 13771.

This regulatory action determination is based on the size, duration and location of the regulated area. Vessel traffic would be able to safely transit around this regulated area, which would impact a small designated area of the Choptank River for 54 hours. The Coast Guard would issue a Broadcast Notice to Mariners via VHF–FM marine channel 16 about the status of the regulated area. Moreover, the rule would allow vessels to seek permission to enter the regulated area, and vessel traffic would be able to safely transit the regulated area once the PATCOM deems it safe to do so.

B. Impact on Small Entities

The Regulatory Flexibility Act of 1980, 5 U.S.C. 601–612, as amended, requires Federal agencies to consider the potential impact of regulations on small entities during rulemaking. The term “small entities” comprises small businesses, not-for-profit organizations that are independently owned and operated and are not dominant in their fields, and governmental jurisdictions with populations of less than 50,000. The Coast Guard certifies under 5 U.S.C. 605(b) that this proposed rule would not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities.

While some owners or operators of vessels intending to transit the regulated area may be small entities, for the reasons stated in section IV.A above, this proposed rule would not have a significant economic impact on any vessel owner or operator.

If you think that your business, organization, or governmental jurisdiction qualifies as a small entity and that this rule would have a significant economic impact on it, please submit a comment (see **ADDRESSES**) explaining why you think it qualifies and how and to what degree this rule would economically affect it.

Under section 213(a) of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-121), we want to assist small entities in understanding this proposed rule. If the rule would affect your small business, organization, or governmental jurisdiction and you have questions concerning its provisions or options for compliance, please contact the person listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section. The Coast Guard will not retaliate against small entities that question or complain about this proposed rule or any policy or action of the Coast Guard.

C. Collection of Information

This proposed rule would not call for a new collection of information under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501-3520).

D. Federalism and Indian Tribal Governments

A rule has implications for federalism under Executive Order 13132, Federalism, if it has a substantial direct effect on the States, on the relationship between the national government and the States, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities among the various levels of government. We have analyzed this proposed rule under that Order and have determined that it is consistent with the fundamental federalism principles and preemption requirements described in Executive Order 13132.

Also, this proposed rule does not have tribal implications under Executive Order 13175, Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments, because it would not have a substantial direct effect on one or more Indian tribes, on the relationship between the Federal Government and Indian tribes, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities between the Federal Government and Indian tribes. If you believe this proposed rule has implications for federalism or Indian tribes, please contact the person listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section.

E. Unfunded Mandates Reform Act

The Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1531-1538) requires Federal agencies to assess the effects of their discretionary regulatory actions. In particular, the Act addresses actions that may result in the expenditure by a State, local, or tribal government, in the aggregate, or by the private sector of \$100,000,000 (adjusted for inflation) or more in any one year. Though this proposed rule would not result in such an expenditure, we do discuss the effects of this rule elsewhere in this preamble.

F. Environment

We have analyzed this proposed rule under Department of Homeland Security Directive 023-01 and Commandant Instruction M16475.1D, which guide the Coast Guard in complying with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321-4370f), and have made a preliminary determination that this action is one of a category of actions that do not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the human environment. This proposed rule involves implementation of regulations within 33 CFR Part 100 applicable to organized marine events on the navigable waters of the United States. The temporary regulated area that would be enforced daily during a nine-day period during the sailboat regatta.. Normally such actions are categorically excluded from further review under paragraph L61 of Appendix A, Table 1 of DHS Instruction Manual 023-01-001-01, Rev. 01. A preliminary Memorandum For Record for Categorically Excluded Actions supporting this determination is available in the docket where indicated under **ADDRESSES**. We seek any comments or information that may lead to the discovery of a significant environmental impact from this proposed rule.

G. Protest Activities

The Coast Guard respects the First Amendment rights of protesters. Protesters are asked to contact the person listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section to coordinate protest activities so that your message can be received without jeopardizing the safety or security of people, places, or vessels.

V. Public Participation and Request for Comments

We view public participation as essential to effective rulemaking, and will consider all comments and material received during the comment period. Your comment

can help shape the outcome of this rulemaking. If you submit a comment, please include the docket number for this rulemaking, indicate the specific section of this document to which each comment applies, and provide a reason for each suggestion or recommendation.

We encourage you to submit comments through the Federal eRulemaking Portal at <http://www.regulations.gov>. If your material cannot be submitted using <http://www.regulations.gov>, contact the person in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section of this document for alternate instructions.

We accept anonymous comments. All comments received will be posted without change to <http://www.regulations.gov> and will include any personal information you have provided. For more about privacy and the docket, visit <http://www.regulations.gov/privacyNotice>.

Documents mentioned in this NPRM as being available in the docket, and all public comments, will be in our online docket at <http://www.regulations.gov> and can be viewed by following that website's instructions. Additionally, if you go to the online docket and sign up for email alerts, you will be notified when comments are posted or a final rule is published.

List of Subjects in 33 CFR Part 100

Marine safety, Navigation (water), Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Waterways.

For the reasons discussed in the preamble, the Coast Guard proposes to amend 33 CFR part 100 as follows:

PART 100--SAFETY OF LIFE ON NAVIGABLE WATERS

1. The authority citation for part 100 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 33 U.S.C. 1233; 33 CFR 1.05-1.

2. Add § 100.501T05-0577 to read as follows:

§ 100.501T05-0577 Special Local Regulation; Choptank River, Talbot and Dorchester Counties, MD.

- (a) Definitions. As used in this section:

Captain of the Port (COTP) Maryland-National Capital Region means the Commander, U.S. Coast Guard Sector Maryland-National Capital Region or any Coast Guard commissioned, warrant or petty officer who has been authorized by the COTP to act on the COTP's behalf.

Coast Guard Patrol Commander (PATCOM) means a commissioned, warrant, or petty officer of the U.S. Coast Guard who has been designated by the Commander, Coast Guard Sector Maryland-National Capital Region.

Official Patrol means a vessel assigned or approved by the Commander, Coast Guard Sector Maryland-National Capital Region with a commissioned, warrant, or petty officer on board and displaying a Coast Guard ensign.

Participant means a person or vessel registered with the event sponsor as participating in the 2018 Star World Championship regatta or otherwise designated by the regatta's sponsor as having a function tied to the event.

Spectator means a person or vessel not registered with the event sponsor as a participant or assigned as an official patrol.

- (b) Locations. All coordinates reference Datum NAD 1983.

(1) Regulated area. All navigable waters of the Choptank River, bounded by a line connecting the following coordinates: commencing at latitude 38°41'39.02" N, longitude 076°11'19.18" W, thence south to latitude 38°37'28.68" N, longitude 076°11'19.18" W, thence west to latitude 38°37'28.68" N, longitude 076°18'18.35" W, thence north to latitude 38°41'39.027" N, longitude 076°18'18.35" W, thence east to point of origin, located near Oxford, MD. The following location is within the regulated area:

(2) Race Area. The race area is a circle in shape with its center located at position latitude 38°39'48.00" N., longitude 076°15'03.42" W. The area is bounded by a line measuring approximately 2.5 nautical miles in diameter.

(c) Special local regulations: (1) The COTP Maryland-National Capital Region or PATCOM may forbid and control the movement of all vessels and persons, including event participants, in the regulated area. When hailed or signaled by an official patrol, a vessel or person in the regulated area must immediately comply with the directions given by the patrol. Failure to do so may result in the Coast Guard expelling the person or vessel from the area, issuing a citation for failure to comply, or both. The COTP Maryland-National Capital Region or PATCOM may terminate the event, or a participant's operations at any time the COTP Maryland-National Capital Region or PATCOM believes it necessary to do so for the protection of life or property.

(2) Except for participants and vessels already at berth, a person or vessel within the regulated area at the start of enforcement of this section must immediately depart the regulated area.

(3) A spectator must contact the PATCOM to request permission to either enter or pass through the regulated area. The PATCOM, and official patrol vessels enforcing

this regulated area, can be contacted on marine band radio VHF-FM channel 16 (156.8 MHz) and channel 22A (157.1 MHz). If permission is granted, the spectator may enter the regulated area or pass directly through the regulated area as instructed by PATCOM. A vessel within the regulated area must operate at a safe speed that minimizes wake. A spectator vessel must not loiter within the navigable channel while within the regulated area.

(4) Only participant vessels and official patrol vessels are allowed to enter the race area.

(5) A person or vessel that desires to transit, moor, or anchor within the regulated area must first obtain authorization from the COTP Maryland-National Capital Region or PATCOM. A person or vessel seeking such permission can contact the PATCOM on Marine Band Radio, VHF-FM channel 16 (156.8 MHz).

(6) The Coast Guard will publish a notice in the Fifth Coast Guard District Local Notice to Mariners and issue a marine information broadcast on VHF-FM marine band radio announcing specific event date and times.

(d) Enforcement periods. This section will be enforced during each of the following times:

- (1) From 11:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. on October 7, 2018.
- (2) From 11:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. on October 8, 2018.
- (3) From 11:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. on October 9, 2018.
- (4) From 11:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. on October 10, 2018.
- (5) From 11:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. on October 11, 2018.
- (6) From 11:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. on October 12, 2018.

(7) From 11:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. on October 13, 2018.

(8) From 11:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. on October 14, 2018.

(9) From 11:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. on October 15, 2018.

Dated: August 13, 2018

Joseph B. Loring,

Captain, U.S. Coast Guard,

Captain of the Port Maryland-National Capital Region.

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